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A Handbook of Greek Constitutional History. By A. H. J. GREENIDGE, M. A. Pp. 276. Price, \$1.25. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

The student of Greek history is fortunate in the number of serviceable books at his disposal. Greece has held such sway over the minds of scholars, that almost every phase of Greek history has been eagerly investigated. A few years ago, however, the discovery of the "Constitution of Athens" threw light upon many subjects and caused some questions to be reopened. The result was a mass of writing which is usable only by the specialist. In the light of this new material, Mr. Greenidge has now put into scholarly form and moderate compass the more important facts about Greek constitutional history. His aim is "to pay more attention to the working than to the mere structure of constitutions."

After defining the terms he must use, he traces the early development of the constitutions and certain general tendencies exemplified in colonization and the growth of international law among the Greeks. Then follow chapters on the different constitutions, classed as oligarchies, mixed constitutions, and democracies. Of these, the last is the longest, and the most interesting, as it is devoted chiefly to Athens. The volume ends with short chapters on federal governments, and "Hellenism and the fate of the Greek constitutions."

The work is done conscientiously and will take rank as the most useful outline yet written. The author has avoided two pitfalls into which many predecessors have fallen; we refer to the exaggerated estimate of the importance of individuals in Greek history, and to the tendency to treat the utterances of philosophers as if their theorizing represented the actual working of constitutions. We have but one criticism to make; the matter is so closely packed that the book is in parts difficult to read. But even when most difficult to read, it repays careful study.

The volume is supplied with a select bibliography—in which we think Holm's history should be mentioned—with indices of subjects, Greek words, and Greek authorities, and with a political map of Greece about 430 B. C.

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American History told by Contemporaries. Volume I, *Era of Colonization, 1492-1689.* Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Pp. xviii, 606. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897.

This work essays no easy task. It attempts: "First, to put within convenient reach of schools, libraries and scholars authoritative texts